



NATIONAL MARINE  
SANCTUARIES <sup>TM</sup>

**Sanctuary Advisory Council  
Information Bulletin  
Vol. 2, No. 8**

August 2004

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Ocean Service  
National Marine Sanctuary Program



### **Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary**

On July 18, sanctuary staff hosted a group of 30 Chumash people on the R/V *Shearwater* for a special field trip to the sanctuary and national park. The purpose of the trip was to raise awareness about and interest in the sanctuary among key individuals in the Chumash community for purposes of soliciting candidates for the new Chumash seat on the Sanctuary Advisory Council. The trip was greatly appreciated by the guests, who were moved deeply at spending time in the sacred place that is their ancestor's homeland. Discussions opened up a new positive dialogue across the many factions found within the Chumash community, and hold promise to bring forward excellent advisors to sanctuary.

### **Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary**

The Naval Historical Center completed a 12-day cultural resource survey project in the sanctuary with support from a mini-grant awarded by the Maritime Heritage Program. The sanctuary issued a survey and inventory permit for the project entitled "Remote-Sensing for Remains of the United States Schooner *Alligator*" because earlier archaeological investigation of these remains in 1995 and 1996 revealed significant discrepancies between the shipwreck site and historical accounts of *Alligator's* hull construction and ballast. The Naval Historical Center's Underwater Archaeologists traveled to Key Largo to complete the fieldwork for the project. A report will be forthcoming.

Sanctuary staff is partnering with the Navy, Department of Army Corps of Engineers and the Florida Keys Community College on the relocation of two large anchors determined to be of submerged cultural resource value. The anchors are in the path of dredging operations in Key West ship channel sections, and the Florida State Historic Preservation Office has deemed them significant resources worthy of rescue efforts. An additional six significant anomalies will also be investigated.

On July 5, the History Channel aired a "Deep Sea Detectives" segment entitled "Explosion at Sea," the story of the ship *Queen of Nassau*, which lies in the sanctuary. This program featured staff from the National Marine Sanctuary Program's Maritime Archaeology Center and personnel from the National Undersea Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Sanctuary staff identified the *Queen of Nassau* and showed that the vessel had been built for the Canadian Navy. The History Channel informed the sanctuary that this program received the highest rating of any of the "Deep Sea Detectives" shows, which has run for several seasons.

The July issue of BOAT US magazine features an article titled "Rapid Rehab for Living Coral," about the recent trend toward responsible parties and insurers working with NOAA and the sanctuary to immediately stabilize and restore coral reefs damaged by boat groundings. Sanctuary enforcement responded

to fifteen groundings from Thursday, July 1st through Sunday, July 4th. Site visits to investigate those in the Upper Region will take place over the coming week. In all, sanctuary officers put in more than three hundred hours of on the water patrol over the holiday weekend, issuing 33 resource citations.

### **Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary**

The 9th annual Down Under, Out Yonder education workshop occurred July 10-14th. The program is a partnership between the sanctuary and the Gulf of Mexico Foundation. The participants included 27 educators from six states. The workshop began with two days of activities and lectures in Galveston, Texas at Texas A&M University at Galveston and at the NOAA Fisheries lab at Fort Crockett, Galveston. Weekend activities included a REEF Fish Identification course with a virtual dive at the Caribbean tunnel of Moody Gardens Aquarium, lectures on coral biology, sanctuary programs, oil and gas production, geology, and more. Twenty of the educators headed 110 miles offshore on a live-aboard dive boat for diving at the coral reef caps of East and West Flower Garden Banks, Stetson Bank and two oil and gas production platforms. The seas were perfect, and the group had the opportunity to make up to 11 dives. The group was joined by a film crew from The Learning Network who are filming a documentary for the Gulf of Mexico Program. Evaluations marked the program as highly successful and beneficial.

The sanctuary manager will participate on an expedition to explore seamounts in the Gulf of Alaska July 28 – August 23. This cruise, funded by NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration, will be conducted aboard the R/V *Atlantis* operated by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and will include exploratory dives by the research submersible ALVIN. The manager will assist Aquanautix and Marine Conservation Biology Institute, one of four principal institutions on the mission, to characterize the deepwater coral assemblages that occur on the seamounts. The other institutions on the mission are from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and Oregon State University. The mission will be followed on the NOAA/OE website: <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov>

### **Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary**

The Sanctuary Education Coordinator is conducting a joint sanctuary and National Geographic Society Field Education Study this week. Twelve teachers are paired with twelve students from across the country and work together on common projects. The participants will engage in everything from kayaking the Altamaha River to operating the Gray's Reef Remotely Operated Vehicle. The Sanctuary Research Coordinator is assisting in the research-oriented phases of the field study.

### **Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary**

The 150th anniversary ceremony for the San Francisco Tide Station was held at the sanctuary. VADM Lautenbacher, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, Dr. Spinrad, Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Michael Weiss, Deputy Director for the National Marine Sanctuary Program, spoke at the event as did Mike Szabados, National Ocean Service's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) director. Brian O'Neill, Golden Gate National Recreation Area General Superintendent, emceed the program. The sanctuary staff has been working with CO-OPS very closely on this for several weeks. The event was very well received. Over 70 people attended.

The sanctuary's monitoring of the emerging die-off of harbor seals in northern California, Oregon and Washington continues. In the course of the sanctuary Beach Watch monitoring surveys, three more adult harbor seals were found dead, all on Thornton State Beach in Pacifica. It is rare that in this species, age groups older than pups are found live-stranded or dead (beachcast) on area beaches. The sanctuary continues to coordinate with the stranding network on determining numbers, patterns and cause of mortality.

### **Monitor National Marine Sanctuary**

NOAA and the U.S. Navy conducted a reconnaissance expedition to the sanctuary during June 17-30, 2004. During the expedition, Navy divers discovered the *Monitor's* lower hull has suffered considerable damage since NOAA last visited and documented the site in August 2003. When the divers investigated more closely they discovered shreds of heavy netting lodged in the wreck in the general vicinity of the damage. Upon returning to the office on July 5, *Monitor* sanctuary staff notified NOAA Enforcement. An official NOAA Enforcement case has been opened on the incident and the National Marine Sanctuary Program is working closely with NOAA Enforcement to gather additional information.

### **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**

On July 1, the sanctuary organized and hosted a media roundtable for NOAA Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services Richard Spinrad. Reporters from the Monterey Herald, Santa Cruz Sentinel, Monterey County Weekly, Santa Cruz Good Times, and the San Luis Obispo Tribune attended. The roundtable generated newspaper articles in the Herald and Sentinel.

### **Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve /Proposed National Marine Sanctuary**

Reserve staff assisted the National Park Service (NPS) last week in deploying environmental monitoring equipment on the wreck of the *USS Arizona* in Pearl Harbor. Other tasks included waste cleanup, artifact tagging, and

practice of internment dives in preparation for lying to rest the remains of *USS Arizona* crewmen within the ship. The reserve continues to work in cooperation with the NPS in the investigation of maritime heritage resources on Oahu.

### **Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary**

The sanctuary celebrated its 10th anniversary with the grand opening of the Olympic Coast Discovery Center and a series of public events on July 16 and 17. On July 16, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation hosted a reception and lecture on seabirds. The keynote remarks were given by former Washington Governor Mike Lowery who was instrumental in supporting sanctuary designation. On July 17, the Discovery Center opened with Congressman Norm Dicks presiding over the event. The center is an 800 square-foot facility that features several interactive exhibits and an innovative Deep Worker submersible mock-up where visitors can observe video from sanctuary research missions on a large screen. The submersible exhibit is designed to give visitors the feeling that they are under water piloting the sub.

On July 17 after the Discovery Center dedication, the site hosted CoastFest to help educate the public about the sanctuary. The festival included exhibits on the Olympic Coast sanctuary, National Marine Sanctuary System, and about 30 exhibitors from various federal, state, tribal, and other organizations on the City Pier. The festival also included live music and tours of the R/V *Tatoosh* and *Lady Washington*, which was one of the tall ships featured in the recent film "The Pirates of the Caribbean."

### **Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary**

Over 100 divers are expected to participate in the Great Annual Fish Count and events, which include the annual sanctuary celebration in Gloucester, MA. Divers will not only be counting fish, but those trained in the sanctuary's new invertebrate course will be identifying the wide range of species without backbones.

### **West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries**

From June 2-9, 2004, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary's R/V *Shearwater* operated in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The vessel served as a research platform for diving operations along the Big Sur coast in central California. Divers collected data as part of a marine resource assessment at sites with and without recent landslide activity. After three days in Big Sur, diving operations were moved to Monterey Bay. Divers then spent two days characterizing invertebrate and algae assemblages used by rockfishes. With funds from the National Undersea Research Program telemetry was used to investigate the movement patterns of nearshore rockfishes. The final two days were spent collecting monitoring data on invertebrates, algae, and fishes at two sites being studied by the Partnership for Interdisciplinary

**National Marine Sanctuary Program**

Forty-five field staff from NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program and the Office of Response and Restoration attended a Resource Protection Workshop July 28-30th. This workshop provided staff from the sanctuary sites training in the use of the new intranet based set of contingency plans and tools, the Sanctuaries Hazardous Incident Logistics Database System and the Resources and Undersea Threats database. These tools are being jointly developed by the two programs to facilitate NOAA's ability to protect sanctuary resources during resource emergencies that range from oil spills and vessel groundings to assessment of underwater threats from sunken vessels or dumpsites.

Sixteen representatives from NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program Education Team attended and collectively provided fifteen separate presentations to participants attending the National Marine Educators Association annual conference in Florida last week. Exceeding any other single organization in the number of presentations, the National Marine Sanctuary Program's education team projected a strong, robust education program recognized nationwide. Continuing its leadership role in ocean education, the National Marine Sanctuary Program is excited to co-host the NMEA 2005 conference in Hawaii next year.

